Tripura Government's request for openingof route

5802. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Tripura have recently requested the "Centre" to negotiatefor opening of a route through Bangladesh linking India and the North-East;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the "Centre" have taken up the matter with the Government of Bangladesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government of Bangladesh in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (d) No request from the State Government of Tripura has recently been received by the Ministry of Surface Transport to negotiate for opening of an Inland Water route through Bangladesh linking India and the North-East. However, the Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade between India and Bangladesh is being renewed from time to time, which permits inland water transportation between Calcutta and Assam through Bangladesh.

Implementation of build-operate-transfer basis for Bombay-Pune Highway

5803. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have allowed to implement a build-operate-transfer (BOT) basis for Bombay—Pune six lane highway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government of Maharashtra is going to sign an MOU with infrastructure and Finance Leasing Services; and

(d) if so, what guidelines are outlined by the Central Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such intimation has been received from Government of Maharashtra as yet.

(d) Does not arise.

Allocation of funds to Rajasthan under Central Road Fund

5804. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had sanctioned Rs. 22.88 crores to State Government of Rajasthan in 1989 under the Central Road Fund;

(b) whether it is also a fact that only an amount of Rs. 3.93 crores has been released so far by the Central Government whereas the State PWD had already spent/ incurred an expenditure of Rs. 20.66 crores during the period 1989 to 1993;

(c) if so, by when the balance of Rs. 18.85 crores is likely to be released by the Central Government under CRF to enable the State to carry out repairs of village roads and missing links and some minor bridges; and

(d) if not, the reasons for not releasing this amount during 1994-95 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Funds amounting to Rs. 3.98 crore were released till, 1993-94 taking into account total schemes approved for the State total funds released to the State, balance of operative sanctions in hand, inter-se priority on all-India basis and availability of funds. As such, it is too early to indicate the amount likely to be made available to Rajasthan Government under Central Road Fund during 1994-95.

Construction of new National Highways in North Eastern Region

5805. DR. B. B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to construct New National Highways in North-Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof Statewise and if not, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government also propose to widen the existing National Highways of North Eastern Region;

(d) if so, details thereof Statewise and if not, what are the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government also propose to make any improvements on National Highways of North-Eastern Region from safety as well as beautification point of view; and

(f) if so, details thereof Statewise and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (f) Widening of National Highways is a continuous process and is undertaken keeping in view traffic intensity, safety etc. within the funds available. Widening of 470 km of National Highways in the States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura are in various stages of progress. In addition to this, 116 km of National Highways in the States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur are also provided in the 8th Plan period.

Scheme to Revive Sick Shipyards

5806. SHRIMATI ILA PANDA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ministry has finalised the scheme for revival of sick shipyards and modernisation of port facilities in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether Paradeep Port in Orissa has been included under this scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) *Scheme for revival of sick shipyards*;

(i) The price of an ocean-going ship will be fixed on the basis that the public sector yard would participate in an open tender and be permitted to match the lowest bid and thereafter be entitled to 30% extra price over the above price, 20% being payable by Government and 10% by the shipowner;

(ii) Loans at concessional rate of 9% to the extent of 80% of